

HACHESTON UNITED CHARITY

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REPORT TO THE 2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. Trustees. At present the number of trustees has been reduced to three – Revd. Ann Kember, Michael Dawe, Secretary; and Adrian Reville, HPC nominee. The other two trustee posts are due to be filled by the churchwardens. But unfortunately, both posts are currently vacant.

2. Income. The charity owns Church Field, part of which is leased by the Village Hall. It also owns Whitbread Meadow (the area of land behind Garnetts Gardens), the plots of land immediately behind Nos 1 to 6 The Street, which are intended to be used by the respective owners for the purpose of parking their cars, and the allotments behind Nos 1 to 8 The Street. This land produces an income in the way of rent as do various investments. Under the terms of the HUC Trust deed set up and registered by the Charity Commission the Trustees shall apply the income as follows:

1. Two thirds to furthering the work of All Saints Church Hacheston.
2. One third to the relief of poverty of “people in need” who live in Hacheston.

The total distributable income received in 2023 was £379.05. Under the terms of the trust deed, 2/3rds (£252.70) is due to be paid to All Saints Church with the remaining 1/3 (£126.35) being retained by the Charity.

3. Grants. The trust deed currently states that “The trustees may assist persons living in Hacheston who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons.” But it goes on to say that the trustees “should not normally give aid until they are satisfied that the potential beneficiary has obtained all the relevant statutory benefits to which he has a claim”.

There is a bit of elbow room in that we can give help to anyone who qualifies in areas which are not covered by the State - for instance help with travel expenses for education, hospital or prison visiting and any consequential costs, e.g. accommodation, child minding or refreshments. Electricity and gas bills may be another area where we could help if circumstances warrant it. The Trustees endeavour to interpret this guidance as liberally as possible particularly in respect of education provided that in so doing it is to the benefit of the wider community. They have also agreed that in future they will be prepared to consider applications from Hacheston residents made, in the first instance, to the Parham-based Corrance Trust. Sadly, however, as despite advertising from time to time in the parish magazine, since 2000 only one application has been received, the Trustees are now giving consideration to the charity's future.

Michael Dawe
Secretary to the Trustees
16th April 2024